

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing Amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

In this Amendment, claim 8 has been amended to more clearly define the claimed invention. New claim 17 has been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. Claims 8-14 and 17 are pending in the present application. This Amendment is supported throughout the original application, especially in the drawings. No new matter has been introduced through this Amendment.

Rejections of claims under 35 U.S.C § 103(a)

The Examiner has stated that claims 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 6,290,302 (hereinafter “‘302”) in view of USP 6,764,142 (hereinafter “Kwon”).

Regarding the grounds for rejection of claims 11-14, this seems to be a typographical error intended to refer to the rejection of all the claims, claims 8-14, rather than only claims 11-14.

Applicant respectfully submit that amended independent claim 8 is patentable over the applied references at least because, amended independent claim 8 recites “...attaching a base side of the head insert along with the fixed bristles to a head of the toothbrush...”. This feature of amended independent claim 8 is supported throughout the original application. The ‘302 reference fails to disclose the above mentioned feature of amended independent claim 8. For example, it is apparent that the holder 10 of the ‘302 reference is combined with the fiber bundles 4 through thermal fusing in the molds **attached** to the implant molding anchorless device for tufting the bristles. Therefore, according to ‘302 reference, the process of tufting the bristles and the thermal fusing process are always performed **together and are not independent** of each other.

Further, in the ‘302 reference, the holder (10) is melted and combined with a covering

element (34) by the injection of the resin (Please see Fig. 26 col 5 lines 49-62 of '302 reference), whereas, in the present invention, the head insert (50), in which the brush bristles are tufted, is adhered to the brush holder.

Also, it appears that the '302 reference has a drawback in which, because the process of tufting the bristles, the thermal fusing process and the injection process are performed in one device, the entire process must be stopped if any trouble occurs in any of the processes. However, in the case of the present invention, even if a problem occurs in one of the bristle tufting devices, since the process of tufting the bristles and the thermal fusing process are performed in a plurality of inexpensive bristle tufting devices, the overall process is not impacted and the head insert, in which the brush bristles have been fixed, is automatically transferred to the general injection molding machine, thereby performing the injection process.

Therefore, a person having ordinary skill in the art, given with the teachings of '302 reference, would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of '302 reference with the teachings of Kwon. At least for the above reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Further, claims 9-14 are dependent from amended independent claim 8 and hence are believed patentable over the applied art of record at least for the reasons advanced above with respect to amended independent claim 8.

Patentability of New claim 17

New claim 17 has been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. In view of new claim 17 being similar to claim 8, claim 17 is believed patentable over the applied art of record at least for the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 8.

Conclusion

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed/ overcome. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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